

USSN: 10/824,349
Atty. Docket No. 2003B043C
Reply to OA of January 6, 2008
Response dated April 4, 2008

REMARKS:

Claims 1-62 and 64-68 are currently pending. New claims 69-71 are added.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 4, 21, 22, 26-28, 32, 33, 35-40, 42, and 44-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,143,825 to Beren et al. (“Beren Patent”). Applicants traverse these rejections.

The Beren patent does not teach adhesive compositions composed of functionalized, “branchy” polymers as recited in the pending claims. For example, independent claim 1 recites an adhesive composition composed of an olefin polymer having, prior to functionalization, a branching index (g') of 0.98 or less measured at the M_z of the polymer when the polymer has an M_w of 10,000 to 60,000, or a branching index (g') of 0.95 or less measured at the M_z of the polymer when the polymer has an M_w of 10,000 to 100,000.

In contrast to the claimed subject matter, the Beren patent teaches a multi-component adhesive that includes only one grafted component and another separate, ungrafted component having a branching index of less than 0.9. The grafted component, i.e., the so-called “third component” or “modified propylene polymer”, is not “branchy” as recited in the pending claims. The “third component” is prepared by grafting a propylene with an unsaturated compound having a polar group, and thus not a branched. The separate, ungrafted component, i.e., the so-called “high melt strength propylene polymer”, has a branching index, but is not functionalized.

Moreover, neither the high melt strength PP or the modified PP described in the Beren patent is present in the adhesive composition in the quantities recited in new claims 69-71.

Accordingly, there is no teaching of an adhesive composition composed of a functionalized, branched propylene polymer as recited in the pending claims. Withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of claims 1, 4, 21, 22, 26-28, 32, 33, 35-40, 42, and 44-60 are respectfully requested.

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Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Beren patent in view of International Publication No. WO 2003/033612 to Wang et al. (“Wang Publication”) or U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0007033 to Karandinos et al. (“Karandinos publication”). Applicants traverse these rejections.

Neither the Beren patent, the Wang Publication, nor the Karandinos Publication, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest adhesive compositions composed of functionalized, branched propylene polymer as recited in the pending claim.

As described above, the Beren patent does not teach or suggest adhesive compositions composed of functionalized, branched propylene polymers. Neither the Wang publication nor the Karandinos publication cure these deficiencies. Although the Wang publication describes blends of syndiotactic polypropylene and amorphous polypropylene, there is no teaching or suggestion of functionalized, branched propylene polymers.

Similarly to the Wang publication, the Karandinos publication does not teach or suggest functionalizing blends. The Patent Office’s previously submitted Notice Of Allowance mailed September 27, 2007 admits “the polymers disclosed in the prior art of KARANDINOS are not functionalized.” See Reasons for Allowance, p.4.

One skilled in the art would not be motivated to achieve adhesive formulations recited in the pending claims based on the teaching or suggestion of the Beren patent, the Wang Publication, nor the Karandinos Publication because the formulations taught by these references are, perforce, different from those recited by Applicants. Therefore, it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to achieve the recited adhesive compositions composed of functionalized, branched propylene polymers.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing is a full and complete response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, an early and favorable reconsideration of the rejection, and allowance of pending claims 1-62 and 64-71 are requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 05-1712, for any fees, including extension of time fees and excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Respectfully,

Date: /April 4, 2008/

/Stephen Timmins/

Stephen Timmins
Registration No. 48,481

Post Office Address (to which correspondence is to be sent):
ExxonMobil Chemical Company
Law Technology
P.O. Box 2149
Baytown, Texas 77522-2149
Telephone No. (281) 834-2866
Facsimile No. (281) 834-2495